

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
THE LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL**

**December 5, 2017**

*The City Council also sits as the Lemon Grove Housing Authority, Lemon Grove Sanitation District Board, Lemon Grove Roadway Lighting District Board, and Lemon Grove Successor Agency*

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**Call to Order**

City Councilmembers present: Mayor Racquel Vasquez, Mayor Pro Tem Jennifer Mendoza, Councilmember David Arambula, Councilmember Jerry Jones, and Councilmember Matt Mendoza.

City Councilmembers absent: None.

City Staff present: City Manager, Lydia Romero; Development Services Director, David De Vries; Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director; Mike James, City Attorney, James Lough; Sheriff's Sergeant, Kelly Moody; Fire Chief, Colin Stowell; and Management Analyst, Malik Tamimi.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember M. Mendoza.

**Presentation**

The Lemon Grove history minute was presented that featured Lido's Italian Restaurant.

Mayor Vasquez presented a proclamation, declaring December 2017 as Impaired Driving Prevention Month.

Mayor Vasquez read a certificate of recognition for Rebecca McElroy, Girl Scout Silver Star Award, for her creation of the Little Library, at Berry Street Park.

**Public Comment**

John L. Wood commented on the condition of the sidewalk along Federal Boulevard and on bicyclists using Central and Federal Avenue.

Jesus Benayas expressed appreciation, for the completed sidewalk, along Golden Avenue and Washington Street.

Garth Watkins commented on parking issues along Broadway, between Harris and Citrus Street.

**1. Consent Calendar**

- A. Ratification of Payment Demands**
- B. Waive Full Text Reading of All Ordinances and Resolutions on the Agenda**
- C. 2017 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Acceptance**
- E. ADA Transition Plan Update Project Contract Award**

**Action: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Jones, to approve the Consent Calendar items with the exception of item No. 1.D, to be moved to the end of the agenda for discussion passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes: Vasquez, J. Mendoza, Arambula, Jones, M. Mendoza**

**Resolution No. 2017-3548:** Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, Accepting Fiscal Year 2017 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Funds

**Resolution No. 2017- 3549:** Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, Awarding a Contract for the ADA Transition Plan Update Project

## **2. Planning Commission**

Mayor Vasquez provided a historical and legislative overview of Planning Commissions throughout the State.

### Public Speaker(s)

The following members of the public spoke in favor of reinstating the City's Planning Commission:

Seth Smith  
Dr. George Linzey  
Angela Harris  
Dawn Henman  
John L. Wood

The following members of the public spoke in opposition of reinstating the City's Planning Commission:

Michael McSweeney  
Lori Pfeiler  
Humbert Cabrera

Teresa Rosiak- Profit commented on the City's previous Planning Commission and suggested that a future Planning Commission not receive compensation.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza explained that in 2014 Mayor Mary Sessom suggested the elimination of the Planning Commission. She provided an overview of the research she conducted to preserve the Planning Commission, which was presented to the City Council in 2014.

Councilmember Jones explained his opposition to the Planning Commission and support of the Community Advisory Commission.

Councilmember Arambula asked if the Community Advisory Commission would be disbanded, if there were any problems with the Planning Commission, and what was the compensation for the Planning Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza answered that disbanding the Community Advisory Commission would be a decision for another day.

Mayor Vasquez noted that the Planning Commission Members received \$75, per meeting that occurred. She added that there were no problems reported from the public, developers, or businesses, with regards to the Planning Commission. She added that the comments the Planning Commission received were positive in nature.

Councilmember M. Mendoza noted that he doesn't see any reason to reinstate the Planning Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza noted that they received letters of support of the Planning Commission.

**Action: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Arambula, to reinstate the Planning Commission passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes: Vasquez, J. Mendoza, Arambula**

**Noes: Jones, M. Mendoza**

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza requested that the January 16 City Council agenda contain discussion items for the Planning Commission and the Community Advisory Commission.

### **3. Traffic Commission and other Municipal Code Amendments**

James Lough reported that this ordinance has been part of the City's code since incorporation. Its composition is typical of traffic commissions formed in the 1970s or earlier. Its purpose was to bring a wide group of stakeholders to discuss neighborhood traffic issues. The composition was intended to be a mix of laypersons and technical staff that made recommendations to the City Council. These recommendations, like most cities with similar committees, combined political and personal concerns of various stakeholders, with the technical requirements of staff. Often these competing forces brought forward recommendations that compromised technical/legal concerns with the represented stakeholder members making policy recommendations, inconsistent with city-wide council policies.

The office of "road commissioner" is a county creation with no counterpart in most cities. This code amendment defines the "road commissioner" as the Public Works Director since most of the functions fit most closely under the current authority of this office. Some of the functions of the "road commissioner" fall under the authority of the City Engineer. Since the City Engineer is a contract position, the authority better fits with the Public Works Director. The "road commissioner" definition is modified to allow the Public Works Director to delegate responsibilities requiring professional/technical expertise to employees or contractors holding the proper professional credentials. This would retain the current method of hiring or relying upon professional surveyors or engineers to provide technical services under the direction of the Public Works Director. This Ordinance requires no change in current operations.

The code amendments also eliminate two references to the Director of Parks and Recreation. Both references were located in the code sections, addressed in the sections dealing with changes, involving the "road commissioner". Each section addresses park maintenance issues which, in Lemon Grove, have been performed by the Public Works Department, even when the City had a Parks and Recreation program.

The goal of this amendment is to allow the Traffic Advisory Committee to begin to give the City Council technical/legal advice on traffic issues, whether project specific or not. This input can be used to help the Council address public concerns, while establishing a hearing record that demonstrates that the Council applied professional advice to the problem.

**Action: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Arambula, to introduce and conduct the first reading by title of ordinance No. 447 passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes: Vasquez, J. Mendoza, Arambula, Jones, M. Mendoza**

**Ordinance No. 447:** An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, Amending Lemon Grove Municipal Code Amending Lemon Grove Municipal Code Sections in Titles 10 (Vehicles and Traffic) and 12 (Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places) to Adjust Membership of the Traffic Advisory Committee and Make Various Other Technical Changes

**D. General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan and Climate Action Plan Timeline and Amendment No. 2 of the Professional Services Agreement with Dudek for the Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan Update**

David De Vries explained that the professional services agreement with Dudek will expire on December 31, 2017, unless an extension is approved. He provided an overview of the General Plan Update, Downtown Specific Plan, and Climate Action Plan timeline.

**Action: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Arambula, to adopt the resolution approving Amendment No. 2 of the Professional Services Agreement with Dudek passed, by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Vasquez, J. Mendoza, Arambula, Jones, M. Mendoza

**Resolution No. 2017- 3548:** Resolution of the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove Approving Amendment No. 2 of the Professional Services Agreement with Dudek for the Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the General Plan Update

**City Council Oral Comments and Reports on Meetings Attended at the Expense of the City. (GC 53232.3 (d))**

Councilmember Jones had no reports this evening.

Councilmember Arambula had no reports this evening.

Councilmember M. Mendoza had no reports this evening.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Mendoza attended a breakfast for St. Paul PACE program and the Annual Community Bonfire, and the ribbon cutting at Helix High School.

Mayor Vasquez attended the Annual Community Bonfire and a LAFCO meeting.

**City Manager and Department Director Reports**

Chief Stowell reported on the current fire conditions.

Lt. Moody reported on an upcoming DUI check-point.

**Closed Session**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
City Manager

Closed Session Report: No reportable action was taken.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.